

CITY CHARTER

Torrance, a city which will have a population of 50,000 within five years, according to official estimates, needs a modernized form of self-government which only can be attained through the writing and adoption of a City Charter.

A group of Torrance citizens, organized as the Torrance Parents Association for the purpose of bringing the government of Torrance schools and the control of the school funds to the citizens of Torrance, has made a suggestion to the City Council which will accomplish two ends:

1. Provide a City Charter for Torrance.
2. Give the people of Torrance the control of their own schools.

The suggestion of the Torrance Parents Association, which has met the approval of the City Council, is that the City Council have written a City Charter which will provide for maintenance of the present city governmental setup, and further provide for the assumption of control by the people of the schools.

The reason that the Torrance Parents Association made this suggestion, the group told the City Council, is that it is the only means by which the people can have the democratic opportunity of expressing their views on this vital school control issue. Certainly this issue needs to be settled now, and without interference from outside interests, and without the proposal becoming involved in local political tangles which would result from changes in the city government which might be written into a City Charter.

They want the school issue decided. A CLEAR-CUT DECISION.

For this reason, it should be pointed out to the people now; to the city employees, and to others interested in the subject that the present city government setup will be preserved; that present civil service rights will be maintained; that there will be no change whatever until after the charter is adopted.

Then, the City Charter adopted and ratified by the legislature, and the schools safely under control of the Board of Education of Torrance which the people will elect independently of the City Council, the government of Torrance can be revamped in any way the people of Torrance want it changed—to meet the changing times.

This would be done through amendments to the City Charter, adopted from time to time when needed.

This is a sensible and worthy method of achieving the two ends, and it should be pursued without unnecessary delay that the people may decide on the school control matter at either the August or November election.

The use of the City Charter method of assuming control of the schools and providing a charter government for Torrance, as outlined above, has been recommended over the formation of a Fifth Class City in Torrance.

While the formation of a Fifth Class City would automatically give the people of Torrance the control of its schools through a Torrance Board of Education, it also would provide for many changes in city governmental procedure which are not acceptable at this time.

This is the reason the plan to form a Fifth Class City was abandoned in favor of the writing of a City Charter.

SWIMMING POOL PROMISED IN CITY BOND ISSUE PLAN BEING PREPARED FOR VOTE

Well, kids, you're going to have a municipal swimming pool in Torrance.

That is to say, you'll have it if you can convince the folks that it is the thing to do to vote "yes" on the proposal in a coming bond issue election providing for the construction of the swimming pool.

You can tell them, however, that it will not cost them a cent, because the two-bits that folks will pay to go swimming in the pool will defray cost of construction, upkeep, life guards, heating and water, and still retire the bonds.

Yep, kids, it's a deal. But you have a job to do.

The City Council knows how you voted a few months ago when the Torrance Herald and the school principals conducted a survey of the feeling in regard to a swimming pool, and you can thank the City Council for the chance to get it at an early election—watch for it.

The swimming pool will be built at Torrance ball park, in an undeveloped area, and it will be for young and old alike.

Architect A. R. Walker, retained by the city to draft plans for the coming bond issue election, conferred with the council on Monday night, and final phases of the proposal were discussed.

Plans call for recreation buildings in central Torrance and Waleria; additions to present municipal buildings; a new fire station and remodeling of the central fire station into a police station and courtroom.

Also provided are construction of sewer truck lines to provide sanitary sewers for most every area of Torrance, with the aid of state matched money; street

and alley work, and other projects.

It is expected that the bond issue election, which will be split into seven or eight different propositions, will be presented to the people some time this summer.

No Lease Yet Negotiated For Waleria P.O.

J. E. Vaverka, speaking for Maurietta L. Vaverka, postmistress at Waleria, has informed the Torrance Herald that the postoffice department has not closed a lease with any person for quarters in Waleria, other than for the quarters in the St. Helen's Gasoline Co. at Newton st. and Hawthorne Blvd.

Vaverka said that several persons were negotiating on new buildings, but that no transaction had been completed for quarters in the structure which James Loughridge plans.

The postoffice has been in Tuttle's pharmacy for some time and Vaverka said that any information regarding the postoffice in Waleria should come from either himself or Mrs. Vaverka.

TORRANCE HERALD

ESTABLISHED 1914 . . . THREE SECTIONS — 22 PAGES

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32nd YEAR—No. 18

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TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1946



GOOD NEWS RECEIVED . . . Rep. Cecil R. King, center left, and Comdr. George H. Happ, center right, read a telegram to Mayor J. Hugh Sherfy Jr. that a revocable permit for the City of Torrance to operate the Army's flight strip here was to have been mailed Tuesday of yesterday. President Reed H. Parkin of Torrance Chamber of Commerce, left, and Mayor Sherfy, right, look on. (Torrance Herald photo.)

Torrance Firm Cited By L.A. On Smog Charge

Operators of the Pacific Coast Smelter in Torrance were cited

by Los Angeles City Attorney, according to Harry E. Kunkel, director of the Los Angeles City Health Departments, Bureau of Air Pollution Control.

The company was tagged following receipt of a petition to the Los Angeles City Council signed by 56 Los Angeles residents of the "shoe-string strip," who demanded abatement of smoke and fumes erupting from the firm's equipment.

The Los Angeles city attorney, however, pointing to an opinion rendered last fall, explained that while state law ordinarily permits a city to abate nuisances from sources outside its limits, the law would be nearly powerless to enforce in cases involving industries located in industrial areas.

The Board of Health Commissioners of Los Angeles thereupon notified the Los Angeles City Council for the second time in six months, that a change in the state law is required to correct smoke and fumes nuisances emanating from outside the City of Los Angeles.

Honor Roll In City Hall Here To Be Corrected

An effort is being made to bring up to date and correct the honor roll of service men and women in the City Hall corridor, presented to the City of Torrance by the Lions Club.

Those who know of deletions or corrections are asked to supply the following information: Name of man or woman in the service; address; branch of service; date inducted and discharged; highest grade attained and decorations or citations.

The information, in writing, should be sent to the office of City Clerk A. H. Bartlett or to the Torrance Herald.

McCALL IN WASHINGTON SEEKING AIRPORT TITLE FOR CITY OF TORRANCE

Seeking to iron out difficulties attendant to permanent possession of the Municipal airport of the Army's Long Beach flight strip, City Attorney John E. McCall is in Washington, D. C., conferring with officials of the Bureau of Public Roads and other departments interested in the 480-acre airport.

John F. Melanie Heads Memorial Day Committee

Commander C. Earl Conner, Torrance Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, yesterday appointed Captain John F. Melanie to head the committee on arrangements for the first Memorial Day celebration since the war.

Last year, by action of the City Council, a plot of ground was dedicated in the El Prado park, in memory of all Torrance heroes who have sacrificed their lives in the service of our country.

"This year we should all attend the rites to honor these heroes," Melanie stated.

A parade and special commemoration services will form part of the ceremonies, and all Torrance organizations are being asked to participate in the rites.

Commander James Brodie, of this post's Memorial Day American Legion, is chairman of this post's Memorial Day committee.

A. L. A. ARRANGES BUSINESS MEETING

American Legion Auxiliary of Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170 will hold a regular business meeting at 7:45 p. m. Monday, May 13, at St. Andrew's Parish Hall. Mrs. Emma Evans, president, asks a large attendance.

Pictures Of Veterans Are Wanted

Attention, veterans, their families and friends!

The Torrance Herald will publish a souvenir "Veterans Welcome Home" edition on July 3, which will contain the full program of the mammoth celebration planned for July 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 in Torrance.

We say, not boastfully, that the Torrance Herald files contain probably more pictures, or "cuts," as they are referred to, of service men and women than any other weekly newspaper in the western United States; more than most dailies.

These pictures, together with others which we can secure between now and the publication date, will be published in the July 3 souvenir "Welcome Home" edition.

We are anxious to secure pictures of every veteran of Torrance, and if your picture, the picture of your father, husband, brother, son or sweet heart is not in our files, please see that we get it at once together with the following information:

Name of veteran, nearest relative, address, date entered service, date discharged, branch of service, highest grade attained, decorations or citations.

There are a few cuts missing from among those of the men and women who gave their lives during the past war. The Torrance Herald would like also to have these for this edition and future memorial editions.

Bring all pictures to the editorial department, 1338 El Prado, with complete information.

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH SEPARATE BUILDING DEPT. IN TORRANCE IS DROPPED

Proposal to establish a separate building department in the City of Torrance, divorcing the task of checking of building plans, issuing of permits and inspecting from the office of the City Engineer, an idea advanced to expedite sadly needed construction projects in residential and commercial districts of the city, has been dropped by the City Council in favor of creating a "division" of building in the office of the engineer.

Big Veterans' 'Welcome Home' Details Solved

General Chairman William H. Tolson, of the Torrance Area Projects, Inc., reports that the majority of the details in connection with the mammoth Fourth of July Veterans "Welcome Home" celebration and Jubilee have been worked out.

Tents, fireworks, concessions and other necessary supplies and equipment have been reserved for the occasion, and a large number of industries and commercial firms have indicated their interest in the huge industrial and commercial exhibitions planned. It is estimated that more than one million visitors will attend from the Harbor district and South Bay area, in addition to many more from scattered sections of Southern California and elsewhere.

Arrangements are now being made for all local organizations

on July 4. Bands and marching units are being invited to participate in this parade. The aerial circus will be of the highest

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Local Plane Crash Creates Damages Of \$15,000; Five in Narrow Escapes

After circling the Torrance airport three times and once touching its wheels to the landing strip, a light plane owned by Robert and Charles Helms, Sunday stalled shortly after taking off and spun into a house at 2450 W. 250th st., injuring two pilots and causing a blaze which destroyed both the house and the plane.

The occupants of the plane, which was said to be a Porter field, were identified as Lloyd E. Howard, 16, 2535 Harrison st., Long Beach, and George A. Baxter, San Diego. Both were blown from the wreckage, according to eye witnesses, as the plane struck the house.

They were taken to the Torrance Memorial hospital where they were reported to have sustained minor burns about the face and body.

Minor burns were also sustained by Mrs. Inez G. Nelson, Mrs. Minnie L. Handy and Mrs. Melinda Goureaux, occupants of the house, who were seated at the dining room table when the plane crashed through the roof directly over Mrs. Nelson's head. The engine of the plane missed her by a bare three feet.

Mrs. Nelson, who had furnished her home with rare antiques, some of which authentically dated to the 18th century, said that all was destroyed in the fire. More than \$8,000 worth of antiques alone were said to have been burned in addition to furnishings and clothing.

Meanwhile, the Civil Aeronautics Authority is investigating the crash which barely missed snuffing out the lives of five persons and causing damage in excess of \$15,000.

Neither of the two youths in the plane possessed sufficient licenses to pilot the plane, reports revealed.

Major C. H. Holmes, commander at the field, was out of town at the time the accident occurred.

Jain is reported to have vigorously opposed divorcement of the building department from his jurisdiction and apparently has been able to influence the City Council that it should not be done.

Whether or not the new proposal as announced by Mayor Sherfy will accomplish the desired ends remained to be determined, but it left those who are watching every other nearby city grow by leaps and bounds, wondering why the same progress is not possible in Torrance. The only cities of a size comparable with Torrance which are not showing tremendous growth are the beach towns which have been hit with the problems of inroads of saline and ground water—having nothing on which to fall back for a water supply.

Torrance, it is pointed out, has plenty of water, plenty of

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Torrance Weather Record		
Official U. S. Weather Bureau		
TEMPERATURE		
May	Maxi-	Mini-
	mum	mum
1	52	52
2	67	55
3	68	52
4	72	51
5	71	57
6	69	60
7		
PRECIPITATION		
		5.39



G. I. PRINTERS PRODUCE TORRANCE HERALD . . . Exponent of the rights of veterans to educational and vocational opportunities, the Torrance Herald employs seven War Veterans in its mechanical department. They are, left to right, O. G. Bender, printer, U. S. Navy seaman 1/c in W.W. No. 1; William A. Walmsith, foreman, composing room, U. S. Marines Pvt. 1/c, W.W. No. 7; Grover C. Whyte, publisher, U. S. Army ordnance sergeant, W.W. No. 1; Robert L. Lewellen Jr., U. S. Navy Q.M. 3/c, W.W. No. 2; Robert L. Levellen Sr., superintendent, commercial printing department, California Guard active duty captain; F. A. Thomas, printer, U. S. Army T/5, W.W. No. 2; L. G. Heagley, pressman, U. S. Army sergeant, W.W. No. 2; J. A. Van Kralingen, apprentice printer, U.S.C.G. seaman 1/c, W.W. No. 2. (Torrance Herald photo.)

Torrance Woman's Club Mortgage Burning Will Be Celebrated Today

Torrance Woman's Club will hold open house at the club house, 1422 Engracia ave., on the evening of Wednesday, May 15 from 7 to 9 o'clock, to mark the celebration of 25 years' successful service in cultural, philanthropic and civic activities, and burning of the mortgage on the building.

At a luncheon for members and past presidents, to be held at noon the same day, the mortgage will be burned.

A beautiful spring flower show to be presented under the direction of Mrs. L. C. Burger and her committee will enhance the setting for the luncheon as well as for the open house program scheduled for the evening hours. Mrs. C. E. Ruppel will be soloist at the luncheon meeting and during the evening Jose Arias, of Los Angeles and his assisting artists will serenade the guests.

Invitations to the open house program have been issued to representatives of all local organizations and club members have been busy contacting for

mer members and other friends of the club. Special effort has been made to reach charter members and those who cooperated with the club during the USO program in Torrance when the clubhouse was used as headquarters. All who can assist in notifying interested persons are asked to do so.

The club's ability to achieve this milestone is due to the splendid leadership and vision of the president, Mrs. R. R. Smith, and the strong cooperation of the members who have been inspired by her determination to accomplish a goal which for a long time seemed almost a mirage.



\$15,000 AIRPLANE CRASH . . . The skeleton of a light plane is shown atop the ruined home of Mrs. Inez G. Nelson, 2450 W. 250th st., after a Sunday spin and crash. Pilot of the plane, according to George Baxter, who was a passenger, was 16-year-old Lloyd E. Howard, 2535 Harrison st., Long Beach. Antique furniture, which was valued at about \$8000, is shown littered about the lawn. A neighbor, Martin J. Rosinbeck, suffered minor burns when he rushed into the house following the crash and helped the three occupants to safety just as the plane exploded, witnesses said. (Torrance Herald Photo)